Mobile Telephone Facilities in NER

3864. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not allowing mobile telephone services in the towns of the North Eastern Region excepting Guwahati and Shillong;

(b) whether they have been banned on security reasons;

(c) if so, the Ministry which has objected to implement the same beyond Guwahati and the reasons for the same; and

(d) the action plan contemplated to cover entire NER to facilitate mobile telephonic service in the remote areas of the NER ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in North-East, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circles on security considerations. This decision has been taken by the Government after consulting all the concerned Ministries.

Linking Gurgaon with Ghaziabad

3865. DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representation regarding linking of Gurgaon, SDCA with Ghaziabad, SDCA;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) by when, subscriber of Gurgaon SDCA will be in a position to call subscriber of Ghaziabad on 95 code ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present policy permits local dialing on code "95" for intra circle calls upto 200 Kms. and to adjoining SDCAs in case of inter circle calls. Gurgaon and Ghaziabad form part of different Telecom Circles *viz.* Haryana and U.P.(W) Telecom Circle respectively and are non-adjacent SDCAs, as such subscribers of Gurgaon SDCA are not permitted to access subscribers of Ghaziabad SDCA on code "95" as per policy.